

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2004

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. General Accounting Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

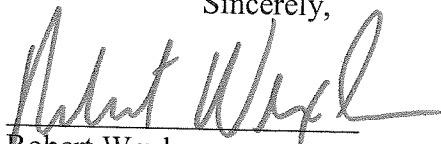
Dear Mr. Walker:

We are writing to request that your office review the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disbursement of emergency assistance funding during the recovery from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

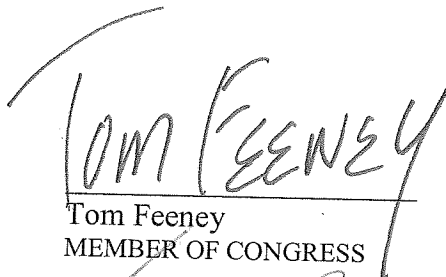
While we all appreciate the tremendous work that FEMA has done with state and local governments to assist the victims of the unprecedented series of hurricanes that devastated Florida in recent months, we believe that it is important to carefully review the actual implementation of this aid, including why certain less-affected areas appear to have received aid for seemingly unrelated property or fraudulent claims. According to the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and other news accounts, millions in government aid under FEMA's Individuals and Households program was used to purchase new appliances, lawn mowers and even cars for residents in communities in Miami-Dade County, which received nearly \$28 million but was not significantly damaged by the storms. While thousands of Floridians in the counties hardest hit by the hurricanes struggled in sweltering heat without power waiting in line for bags of ice, the *Sun-Sentinel* reported several instances of FEMA reimbursement for damage from "ice/snow," "tornado-wind" and "sewer backup" in spite of the fact that none of these problems were reported in the areas where the recipients lived.

At a minimum, these reports call into question the clarity of the aid process and deserve a thorough investigation into the accuracy of the reports and, if correct, the process that rewarded such fraudulent claims. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful and timely consideration of this important issue.

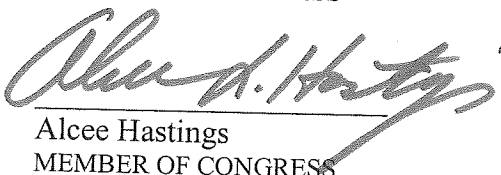
Sincerely,



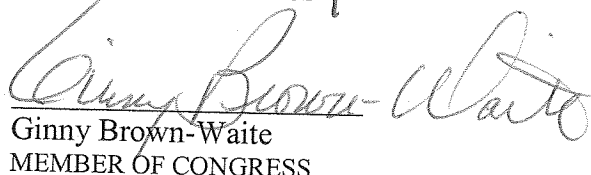
Robert Wexler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tom Feeney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Alcee Hastings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ginny Brown-Waite
MEMBER OF CONGRESS